

We Claim:

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for mounting a boarding ladder to a support structure such as a dock or boat, comprising:

5           a) a mounting bracket having a back plate member for fixed attachment ~~fixedly attached~~ to a support structure ~~with its back against the support structure~~;

          b) said bracket having a front plate member resting against and attached to the front side of said back plate member said front plate member having a vertical slot;

          c) a vertically disposed planar latch member releasably engaged with said ~~bracket~~ front plate slot and extending forward from said ~~bracket~~ front plate member; and

          d) a horizontally extending pivot pin attached to said latch member for pivotably engaging a boarding ladder support member at about its upper end to swingably couple the boarding ladder to said bracket.

2. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for mounting a boarding ladder to a support structure such as a boat or dock as described in claim 1 further including:

          a cutout on said latch member and a stop member attached to said coupled ladder, said stop member engaging said cutout to hold the ladder at an angle with respect to said bracket.

3. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for mounting a boarding ladder to a support structure such as a dock or boat, comprising:

20           a) a mounting bracket having a back plate member for fixed attachment ~~fixedly attached~~ to a support structure;

          b) said bracket having a front plate member resting against and fixedly attached to the front side of said back plate member, said front plate member having parallel top and bottom edges and vertical side edges and a vertical slot located between said side edges;

25           c) a vertically disposed planar latch member releasably engaged at about one end with said slot and extending forward from said bracket front plate member;

d) a boarding ladder having an elongated center support and longitudinally spaced steps attached to said support;

e) a pivot pin extending laterally between said latch and said ladder support remote from said one end of said latch member for pivotably ~~coupling~~ ~~engaging~~ said latch member to said ladder support near its upper end for swingably mounting said ladder to said bracket.

4. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for mounting a boarding ladder to a support structure such as a boat or dock as described in claim 3 further including:

a cutout on said latch member and a stop member adjustably attached to the pivotally attached ladder support for engaging said cutout to hold the ladder at an angle with respect to said bracket.

5. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for mounting a boarding ladder to a support structure such as a dock or boat as described in claim 3 wherein:

said boarding ladder has a centrally located elongated rigid support and longitudinally spaced steps pivotally attached to said support for swinging outward from said support for use and inward for storage; and

~~said a pivot pin for~~ pivotably ~~coupling~~ ~~engaging~~ said ladder support at about its upper end to said latch member.

6. (Original) Apparatus for mounting a boarding ladder to a support structure such as a boat or dock as described in claim 5 further including:

a cutout on said latch member and a stop member adjustably attached to said pivotally attached ladder support for engaging said cutout to set the ladder at an angle with respect to said bracket.

7. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for mounting a boarding ladder to a support structure as described in claim 6 further including:

a series of spaced-apart apertures on said ladder support for placing said stop member at different positions to change the angle at which the ladder sets ~~rests~~.

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